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March 7, 2012

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Karl Morell
Of Counsel
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E-FILED

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

231988

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 479X), BNSF Railway
Company -- Abandonment Exemption -- In Page and Fremont
Counties, Iowa

Dear Ms. Rutson:

On February 1, 2012, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") filed, with the Surface Transportation Board, the Environmental and Historic Reports in the above-referenced proceeding.

Attached please find the additional response BNSF received from the Interim Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Karl Morell
Of Counsel

Enclosure

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY TIFFANY COWNIE, DIRECTOR

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

March 7, 2012

In reply refer to:
R&C#: 111100042

John A. Sims, CP
BNSF Railway Company
2500 Lou Menk Drive - AOB-3
Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2828

RE: STB - PAGE AND FREMONT COUNTY - BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY CO.
- STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (SUB-NO.479X) - PROPOSED ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION PROJECT - 5.95 MILES BETWEEN STATION MP20.05 IN
SHENANDOAH ENDING AT END OF LINE MP 26.0 IN FARRAGUT -
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dear Mr. Sims,

Thank you for providing the additional information to our office concerning the above referenced proposed project. We understand that this project will be a federal undertaking for the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and will need to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. We make the following comments and recommendations based on our examination of this material and in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (revised, effective August 5, 2004); and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Policy Statement on Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation (adopted November 9, 2006), and on The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation recently issued guidance in November 2011 on *Meeting the "Reasonable and Good Faith" Identification Standard in Section 106 Review*.

Based on your additional information, we understand that no previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the proposed Area of Potential Effect for this undertaking. Given the scope of the undertaking, it is our opinion that there is little likelihood that this undertaking will encounter or adversely impact properties that may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we would be able to concur with the responsible federal agency's (STB) determination that **No Historic Properties will be Affected** by the implementation of this undertaking if that determination would be provided to our office. Once we receive the responsible federal agency's letter of determination for this undertaking, we can issue our formal recommendations.

Please reference the Review and Compliance Number provided above in all future submitted correspondence to our office for this project. We look forward to further consulting with you and the Surface Transportation Board on this project.

STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY of
IOWA
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ADMINISTRATOR

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We have provided this **technical assistance** according to our responsibility defined by Federal law. It remains the federal **agency's decision** on how you will proceed from this point for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas W. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "J".

Douglas W. Jones, Archaeologist and Review and Compliance Program Manager
and Interim Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State Historic Preservation Office
State Historical Society of Iowa
(515) 281-4358

cc: Ralph Christian, Historian, State Historical Society of Iowa
 Troy Brady, Environmental Protection Specialist, STB